tioning the fact to my wife, she told me she had also noticed one in the forenoon, but knew not that it was of special interest. This was Feb. 14, 1884. The next day I examined over fifty individuals of Junco but never a wing-bar was visible. Under Feb. 21, I find the following entry in my diary: "At 8.30 A. M. I shot in my yard a White-winged Snowbird. It is in worn plumage, but appears to be a typical bird; both wing-bars show plainly, the tail has two feathers on each side pure white, and the third one more than half white. It was in company with a second which appeared to be in brighter plumage. This makes five specimens seen, two bright and three dull ones. They were each time associated with a party of Tree Sparrows that has stayed around my premises all winter, so that there may have been but two individuals and the same ones seen several times." On March 7 a single one was seen. This completes the record for Caddo.

Late in the winter a box of skins arrived from Wisconsin which I had prepared the previous spring. On comparing my new Snowbird with the old ones, I was not a little surprised to find among them its counterpart. This second specimen bore a tag which showed its history to be as follows. The morning of Jan. 14, 1883, it was found alive in my woodshed at Jefferson, Wis., in the southern part of the State. It was kept alive three days, and when it died its skin was saved. Both specimens are still in my possession.

This species was originally described by Mr. Aiken in 1872, from specimens taken in the mountains of Colorado, where the species is abundant. Three years later it was taken at Ellis, in Western Kansas, by Dr. L. Watson. It has been found nowhere else. The past winter Dr. Watson again found the species in the same locality, so that it may be considered a regular winter visitant to Western Kansas, but its occurrence in the Indian Territory, and especially in Wisconsin, is probably fortuitous.

THE NESTING HABITS OF THE CAPE MAY WARBLER (*DENDRŒCA TIGRINA*).

BY MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN.

My first acquaintance with the Cape May Warbler in its home was made during the summer of 1882, when our party secured several specimens in the heavy woods back of Edmundston, near the northern boundary of New Brunswick. Previous to this I knew nothing of the occurrence of this species in this Province except what I had learned from Mr. Boardman of its

occasional appearance near the Maine border during the breeding season. A year later, in July, 1883, Mr. Arthur P. Chadbourne captured a solitary example at Rothesay, some nine miles east of this city (St. John), and this completed the record until June, 1884, when the nest and eggs were discovered just outside the city limits by my friend and co-worker in this locality, Mr. James W. Banks. For this is Bank's story that I am telling, he, with characteristic generosity, desiring my name to be associated with its rehearsal.

The birds seen and heard at Edmundston were invariably on the topmost branches of the tallest evergreens (usually spruces) growing in the neighborhood. Our experience furnished us with good and sufficient reason for remembering this fact. As the birds were constantly singing, their general whereabouts was easily discovered, but no small amount of patient searching was required to catch sight of them; and we soon found out that after sighting and shooting a bird there was still much to be gone through before it was in hand; for after tumbling a short distance it usually staid. The trees were too stalwart to be moved by any shaking power we could command, so every successful shot entailed a climb—and such a climb! The branches of these spruce trees were so close together we had to call up all our reserve of muscle and skill to squirm through; and in addition to this we had to encounter the annoying twigs—rough, sharp little things, with which the branches were thickly studded, and which tore clothes, scratched faces, pricked the flesh as they rolled down underneath our flannels, and made themselves generally disagreeable. And so it came about that the Cape May was associated in my mind with the stately trees and the solitude of deep forests —a solitude broken by the merry notes of these songsters, the chatter of squirrels, the sigh of the swaying boughs, and by the strong language of exhausted and exasperated collectors; and, because of these recollections, I was altogether unprepared for my friend's announcement that a pair had built in a location of an almost exactly opposite character. This nest found by Banks was hid among a cluster of low cedars growing in an exposed position, on a rather open hill-side, near a gentleman's residence, and within a stone's throw of a much frequented lane. The nest was placed less than three feet from the ground and within six inches of the tips of the branches, amid the densest part of the

foliage, by which it was well screened from observation. It was fastened to two of the tiny branchlets—pendent from one and resting upon the other—and secured to each by strawberry vines and spider silk.

On June 10 Mr. Banks was sauntering past the cedar and quite accidentally brushed the branches aside, disclosing an incomplete nest, and he observed on a bush near by a bird whose appearance was unfamiliar, apparently not much disturbed, but evidently interested in Bank's presence. At that time the daylight was too far gone to admit of any accurate account being taken of the form or color of the bird, but sufficient was noted to identify it afterwards as a female Cape May Warbler. And here I may add that though the nest was frequently visited during the following week, the male was not seen, nor was the song heard.

On June 13 the nest was completed and two eggs were laid. During this visit the female was near at hand, and when Banks and a comrade withdrew to the shade of an adjoining tree she followed them and gave ample opportunity for a close and satisfactory examination—coming within a couple of yards and coolly pluming the feathers of wings and tail, all the time keeping her eye upon the intruders, but exhibiting no alarm nor uttering a single note.

On June 16 the hen was discovered on the nest and was driven off. She did not fly more than a few yards, and then perching on a bush plumed her feathers while watching her disturbers, occasionally uttering a faint chirping note. This note did not seem like a call, nor an alarm; nor did the bird appear at all excited.

To insure the identification being perfect the bird was secured before the nest was taken. This structure and the completed clutch of four eggs are before me as I write. The walls of the nest are composed of minute twigs of dried spruce, grasses, and strawberry vines, with spider's webbing interwoven with the coarser fabrics and knotted into numerous little balls, which are bound upon the surface as if for ornament. The exterior is rather roughly made, but is more compact, and bears evidence of more art than is shown in the nest of the Magnolia Warbler, which it somewhat resembles. The interior, however, is much more neatly and artistically formed in the Cape May's than in its congener's.

The lining is composed entirely of horsehair, and this is laid with precision, and shaped into a prettily formed cup, the brim being turned with exquisite grace. The dimensions of the nest are, outside, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches high and $2\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 inches across the mouth; inside, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide.

The eggs are of much the same dull white ground-color, of a slightly ashen hue, as that of the Magnolia's. The form of the egg is different, however, the Cape May's being less pyriform—the point less acute. The markings are of light and dark lilac, and yellowish and reddish tints of brown; the brown being on the surface and the lilac underneath, the coatings of shell producing the various shades. As a rule the spots are circular and very small—many being quite minute—and are irregularly distributed, no two eggs bearing the same pattern, though in all four there is decided tendency to concentration in a ring near the large end; but on some there are spots over the larger part of the entire shell, while the small end of others is immaculate. The measurements are .69 × .49, .65 × .49, .66 × .49, .66 × .48.

BIRD NOTES FROM LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM DUTCHER.

1. **Passerculus princeps** *Maynard.* IPSWICH SPARROW.—Wishing to ascertain whether this species is as rare as it has been generally supposed to be, or was overlooked from the inaccessibility of its winter habitat, I arranged with two of my correspondents to send me all the individuals of this species that they could secure. Both of them spend the winter months on the beach, one at Fire Island Inlet and the other at Shinnecock Bay, which is some forty miles further east. That they might be perfectly familiar with these birds, I sent them early in the autumn a skin of one as a sample. December 29, 1883, I received from my Fire Island correspondent twenty-nine specimens which he shot between December 17 and 29. He informed me that he had looked carefully but unsuccessfully for them until December 17, when he found six and secured them all. Subsequent to that time and prior to the 29th he secured twenty-three additional specimens. He also added that he usually observed them in pairs, although sometimes there would be three or four together. They were always found feeding on the seeds of tall grasses and weeds that